

# **Genre Study**

## **Traits of Fantasy**

### **1. The impossible happens**

For example: animals talk, magic happens and there are make-believe characters

### **2. The setting is an imaginary world**

For example: sometimes there is movement between real worlds and imaginary world settings

### **3. There are themes or lessons in the book**

For example: imagination and wonder, good and evil, right and wrong, acting out and consequences

### **4. Characters are well developed**

For example: characters often have magical abilities, animals are believable characters, things (like toys) come alive and characters' actions are predictable

### **5. Authors have unique writing styles**

For example: the authors are able to “pull” the reader in, they make the impossible seem believable and scenes and events are well planned

# **Traits of Mystery**

There are several qualities that a book must have to fit in the mystery genre. Listed below are characteristics of mystery books:

1. The story is like a puzzle or game
2. Clues are scattered throughout the story
3. Plot, events, and characters are carefully “woven” together
4. There are often several possible solutions to the mystery
5. There is often an obvious climax when the mystery is solved and explained
6. The main character is often not a detective, but rather someone who happens to get involved
7. There is often suspense, danger, and pursuit that “pull” the reader into the story
8. Sometimes there is a time limit that the characters must work against
9. Sometimes the reader knows things about the mystery that the characters don’t know
10. Sometimes the author deliberately gives miscues or leaves information out to confuse the reader
11. Readers often find themselves making guesses and predictions while reading
12. Some mysteries include a thread of humor

## **Traits of Science Fiction**

1. Combines fantasy with science and technology.
2. It is often an imaginary adventure story.
3. The setting is often in the future or in a different world.
4. Authors use scientific words and vocabulary.
5. Authors make the unbelievable true.

There are five types of science fiction:

1. Shows how people are different in the future
2. Includes nonhuman characters (ex. Robots)
3. Includes space travel
4. Shows how the world changes because of science
5. Shows what could happen if a current problem becomes worse and worse in the future.

## **Traits of Historical Fiction**

1. The setting is in an important historical time.
2. Research allows the author to accurately describe places, people and events. (The reader learns true historical facts.)
3. Major historical events and people are often part of the story.
4. Historical fiction often includes themes, lessons, and issue that relate to the world today.
5. The author includes language and vocabulary from the past that may not be familiar to the reader.
6. Beginning of the story can sometimes be difficult because the author needs to build background information, introduce the setting and characters, and signal events and themes.

# **Literature Conflicts**

Man vs. Man

Man vs. Self

Man vs. Society

Man vs. Nature